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World Poetry Day to be Celebrated at IWU

March 7, 2011

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) invites the community to celebrate poetry from around the globe at a World Poetry Reading Day event at 4 p.m. on March 22 in the Hansen Student Center (300 E. Beecher St., Bloomington). The event, which is sponsored by IWU's International Studies Program, will consist of a variety of poetry read by students and faculty.

World Poetry Reading Day originated several years ago with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which asked organizations to celebrate poetry from all over the world as they saw fit.

"The day is a celebration of linguistic diversity," said Associate Professor of German and Eastern European Studies Sonja Fritzsche. "It allows the audience to enjoy the melodic rhythms of the many languages spoken by and studied by IWU students and faculty through the medium of poetry."

Fritzsche, along with Associate Professor of English Mike Theune and Assistant Professor of English Joanne Diaz, accepted poetry submissions from along this year's theme of "Childhood and Globalization," which is the International Studies theme for this year. Some of the poems read will be original pieces by students, while others will be from published poets. For the poems read in a foreign language, English translations will be projected on a screen in Hansen Student Center.

"It's an amazing way to engage in a variety of traditions, across time periods, across national boundaries and partake of a sampling of all sorts of poetic traditions," said Diaz.

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